



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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TO: **Internal File**

FROM: Joe C. Helfrich, Biologist & Project Team Lead 

RE: Rilda Canyon Access, PacifiCorp, Deer Creek Mine, C/000018-AM01D

SUMMARY:

On May 7, 2001 the Division received an amendment to add a stipulation to the Deer Creek Mining and Reclamation Plan(MRP). The additional stipulation provides for the use of the Rilda Canyon road and access portals to relocate the Deer Creek longwall starting with the 8th East panel. The relocation is scheduled to begin on June 15, 2001 and be completed by September 15, 2001. This Technical Memo is a review of the proposed relocation of the longwall. There are no deficiencies.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

MINING OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.2, 784.11; R645-301-231, -301-526, -301-528.

Analysis:

General

With the recent completion of mining operations at the Trail Mountain mine, the recovery of materials and equipment including the longwall is ongoing. The current longwall system is available for coal extraction in the Deer Creek mine. Therefore the permittee has requested approval to transfer the Trail Mountain longwall system to the Deer Creek mine by way of the Rilda Canyon access road and portals. Production would commence with the 8th East panel in September of 2001.

TECHNICAL MEMO

Type and Method of Mining Operations

Longwall mining would continue to be the method used for coal extraction once the longwall system is relocated and set up in the 8th East panel of the Deer Creek mine.

Facilities and Structures

The Rilda Canyon access road, pad, and portals would be utilized to relocate the longwall system. These facilities currently occupy approximately 2.01 acres of Manti-La-Sal National Forest. According to the text in Volume 2 of the MRP the access road is a county road from the turn off at the Huntington Canyon highway to a locked gate and public turn around near the National Forest boundary. The permitted portion of the access road is approximately 1150' in length from the end of the county road to the facility pad. The road has been upgraded to a gravel surface road. Additional upgrades to the county portion of the road have been made where it crosses Huntington Creek and enters the Huntington Canyon highway. The permittee has proposed to use this road to transport the longwall system to the Deer Creek mine.

The proposal also includes the set up of a portable unloading station and the use of a front-end loader on the rilda portal pad to handle the longwall equipment. The components of the system include: 131 roof supports, 750' of conveyor separated into 17' sections, and 85' of stageloader in sections.

Finding:

Information provided in the proposal is adequate to meet the requirements of this section of the regulations.

RECOMMENDATION:

The amendment can be accepted in its present form.